IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 are presented below, with claims 1-22 pending. As shown below, claims 1-12 have been amended, and new claims 13-22 have been added.

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1. (Currently Amended) A contents selection system in which a server transmits the contents selection information for having a client select the contents through a network, wherein

said client has including input information transmitting means for transmitting the input speech information through said network to said server, and outputting means for receiving the contents selection information from said server through said network and for outputting the received contents selection information;

said server including prepared information storage means for storing in each of two or more categories one or more pieces of the preparation information each pertinent to each respective contents items, from one contents to another, contents selection information preparation means for preparing said contents selection information based on the speech information received from said client through said network and based on said preparation information, and contents selection information transmitting means for transmitting said the contents selection information prepared by said contents selection information preparation means to said client over said network.

2. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein:

said client includes speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said speech information input to said input information transmitting means;

~~wherein~~ said input information transmitting means transmitting the recognized speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech recognition means to said server; and

~~wherein~~ said contents selection information preparation means preparing said contents selection information based on said recognized speech information <u>received from said client</u> and <u>based</u> on said preparation information ~~received from said client~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein<u>:</u>

said server includes speech recognition means for recognizing the speech of said speech information received from said client over the network; and ~~wherein~~

said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection information based on the speech information recognized by said speech recognition means and <u>based on</u> said preparation information.

4. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein said prepared information storage means ~~memorizes~~ <u>stores</u> ~~the~~ preparation information made up of ~~the~~ speech information; ~~and~~

wherein said contents selection information preparation means calculates the similarity <u>in one or more acoustic characteristic quantities for each contents item</u> between said <u>received</u> speech information ~~in an acoustic characteristic quantities~~ and ~~each said~~ <u>the</u> preparation information ~~memorized~~ <u>stored</u> in said prepared information storage means <u>in a first category for the contents item, and determines the number of contents items for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded a pre-set threshold value;</u>

wherein if ~~the~~ said determined number of contents items ~~corresponding to the preparation~~ ~~information the calculated value of similarity for which has exceeded a pre-set threshold value~~ is not less than a pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means acquires ~~the~~ speech information different from the first-stated speech information to repeat the similarity calculation thereon with respect to each said preparation information stored in said prepared information storage means in a second category; and

wherein if ~~the~~ said determined number of contents items ~~corresponding to the preparation~~ ~~information the calculated value of similarity for which has exceeded a pre-set threshold value~~ is less than said pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means prepares the contents selection information for each of said contents items ~~corresponding to said preparation~~ ~~information~~ for which the similarity value ~~for which~~ has exceeded said pre-set threshold value.

5. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein said contents selection information preparation means calculates the similarity in one or more acoustic characteristic quantities for each contents item between said speech information ~~in an~~ ~~acoustic characteristic quantities and each said~~ and the preparation information ~~memorized~~ stored in said prepared information storage means in a first category for the contents item, and determines the number of contents items for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded a pre-set threshold value;

wherein if ~~the~~ said determined number of contents items ~~corresponding to the preparation~~ ~~information the calculated value of similarity for which has exceeded a pre-set threshold value~~ is not less than a pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means calculates variations from one category to another among the other categories of said preparation

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information to prepare the contents selection information based on the preparation information of

the category having the maximum variations; and

wherein if ~~the~~ said determined number of contents items ~~corresponding to the preparation~~

~~information the calculated value of similarity for which has exceeded a pre-set threshold value~~ is

less than a pre-set number, said contents selection information preparation means prepares the

contents selection information ~~on~~ for each of said contents items ~~corresponding to said~~

~~preparation information~~ for which the calculated value of similarity ~~for which~~ has exceeded said

pre-set threshold value.

6. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 2 wherein:

said speech recognition means includes means for verifying whether or not the speech

recognition on said speech information has been made correctly;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means to be made correctly, said

speech information, processed with speech recognition, is output;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means not to be made correctly,

speech recognition input to said input information transmitting means is again performed to

output the speech information processed with said speech recognition;

said input information transmitting means transmits the speech information processed

with speech recognition by said speech recognition means to said server; and ~~wherein~~

said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection

information based on the recognized speech information received from said client and based on

said preparation information.

7. (Currently Amended) The contents selection system according to claim 3 wherein:

said speech recognition means includes means for verifying whether or not the speech recognition on said speech information has been made correctly;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means to be made correctly, said speech information, processed with speech recognition, is output;

if the speech recognition is verified by said verification means not to be made correctly, speech recognition is again performed on the speech information received over the network from said client to output the speech information processed with said speech recognition; and ~~wherein~~

said contents selection information preparation means prepares said contents selection information based on the speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech recognition means and based on said preparation information.

8. (Currently Amended) A contents selection client for outputting ~~the~~ contents selection information for selecting contents transmitted from a server over a network, said contents selection client comprising:

input information transmitting means for transmitting ~~the~~ input speech information over said network to said server; and

outputting means for receiving said contents selection information from said server over said network to output the received contents selection information;

<u>wherein said input information transmitting means transmits input speech information according to two or more categories of preparation information for contents items based on requests received from said server</u>.

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9. (Currently Amended) The contents selection client according to claim 8 wherein:

said input information transmitting means includes speech recognition means for

performing speech recognition on the input speech information; and ~~wherein~~

the recognized speech information, processed with speech recognition by said speech

recognition means, is transmitted to said server.

10. (Currently Amended) A contents selection server comprising:

prepared information storage means for ~~memorizing~~ storing in each of two or more

categories one or more pieces of ~~the~~ preparation information ~~on~~ each pertinent to respective

contents items~~, from one contents to another~~;

contents selection information preparation means for preparing ~~the~~ contents selection

information for selecting ~~said~~ contents based on ~~the~~ speech information received from a client

over a network and based on said preparation information; and

contents selection information transmitting means for transmitting ~~said~~ the contents

selection information prepared by said contents selection information preparation means to said

client over said network.

11. (Currently Amended) The contents selection server according to claim 10 further comprising:

speech recognition means for performing speech recognition on said speech information

received from said client over said network;

said contents selection information preparation means preparing said contents selection

information based on the speech information processed with speech recognition by said speech

recognition means and based on said preparation information.

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12. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting contents wherein

a server ~~memorizes~~ stores in each of two or more categories one or more pieces of ~~the~~

preparation information ~~on~~ for each of a plurality of contents items~~, from one contents to~~

~~another~~;

a client transmits ~~the~~ input speech information over a network to said server;

said server prepares ~~the~~ contents selection information for selecting one of said plurality

of contents items, based on the speech information received from said client over said network

and based on said preparation information, and transmits the ~~so~~ prepared contents selection

information to said ~~network~~ client over said network; and ~~wherein~~

said client receives ~~said~~ the transmitted contents selection information over said network

from said server and outputs ~~the~~ contents selection request information requesting a selection ~~the~~

~~client requests to select~~ based on said contents selection information.

13. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein said two or more

categories include categories for title, performer, and genre.

14. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 4 wherein said first category is title,

and said second category is performer.

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15. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 4 wherein

said contents selection information preparation means determines a second number of

contents items resulting from said repeated similarity calculation performed using said second

category for which the calculated value of similarity has exceeded a pre-set threshold value; and

if said determined second number of contents items is not less than a pre-set number, said

contents selection information preparation means acquires speech information different from the

first-stated speech information and different from the second-stated speech information to repeat

the similarity calculation thereon with respect to each said preparation information stored in said

prepared information storage means in a third category.

16. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 15 wherein said first category is

title, said second category is performer, and said third category is genre.

17. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 5 wherein said first category is title,

and said other categories upon which said contents selection information preparation means

calculates variations from one category to another include categories for performer and genre.

18. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 1 wherein said contents selection

information preparation means selects a format from one of two or more available formats and

provides the contents selection information to said contents selection information transmitting

means in the selected format.

19. (New) The contents selection system according to claim 18 wherein said two or more

available formats include text, still image, moving image, and audio.

20. (New) The contents selection client according to claim 8 wherein said two or more categories

includes categories for title, performer, and genre.

21. (New) The contents selection server according to claim 10 wherein said two or more

categories include categories for title, performer, and genre.

22. (New) The method according to claim 12 wherein said two or more categories include

categories for title, performer, and genre.

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